



**TOWN OF DARIEN
2004 MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT
Evonne M. Klein, First Selectwoman**

MORE OPEN AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE DARIEN COMMUNITY

- 1) Established direct link from website to me
- 2) Scheduled and held third^{1st} Selectwoman's Night Out
- 3) Held Town Meeting at Senior Center
- 4) Added Public Comment Period to Board of Selectmen Agendas
- 5) Met with board and commission chairs
- 6) Met with RTM District and Committee Chairs
- 7) Encouraged RTM participation in LWV Town Plan Round Table
- 8) Met with Procaccini neighbors
- 9) Surveyed commuters regarding Noroton Heights Railroad Station
- 10) Update website with plans for Procaccini Property and budget issues
- 11) Organized meeting with CL&P and local businesses re: Glenbrook Cables Project
- 12) Lobbied State Legislators on behalf of the town

ADDRESSING OPEN AND COMMUNITY SPACE ISSUES

- 1) It is the # 1 priority of the Board of Selectmen
- 2) Negotiating the purchase of the Procaccini Property
- 3) Met with the Pool Time Group who will present to Park and Recreation Commission
- 4) Recommended funding in 2004/2005 budget for boat ramp, Casey Field, Master Plan to improve Weed Beach

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- 1) More frequent response to alleviating congestion at Corbin and Post Rd
- 2) Applying for a federal grant that would support an overall plan for downtown improvements to traffic flow and pedestrian access
- 3) Applying for cost recovery from the I95 accident in November
- 4) Recommended funding for a traffic engineer in the 2004/2005 budget
- 5) Within the next two weeks the town should see the crosswalks painted, pedestrian crossing signs on the Post Rd and street lines painted
- 6) Ordered a gate in December, installed in January making possible the Noroton Heights station house to be open from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

- 7) Completed the painting of the interior of the station, new bench installment by the end of the month
- 8) Sought and received Board of Finance approval for \$60,000 to replace the roof and windows at the NHtsRR
- 9) Renegotiated the town's agreement with the DOT
- 10) Established Parking Fund which includes a capital improvement fund

DOWNTOWN AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 1) Met with the Business Development Committee
- 2) Opened dialogue with the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding updating the Parking Ordinances
- 3) Extended off-street parking from 1>2, and 2>3 hrs
- 4) Approved guidelines for outdoor dining
- 5) Removed the snow from downtown
- 6) Recommended funding in 2004/2005 budget for downtown consultant

SENIOR ISSUES

- 1) Toured senior centers with the Director of Darien Senior Center and Commission on Aging, Chair
- 2) Newsletter to be released this month
- 3) Recommended funding is in the budget to expand the lunch program to 5 days

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

- 1) Skating at Gorham's Pond returned through effort and compromise on the part of both the skaters and the Darien Police Department and Commission
- 2) The Boy Scout Tag Sale through compromise and open dialogue had additional tents and parking on one side of West Ave.
- 3) Tax Relief for the Emergency Service Volunteers was resoundingly passed by the RTM on April 26th
- 4) Fourth of July Fireworks location(s) various town hall departments have been involved in a real study of possible locations for fireworks. I hope to conclude this process next week.
- 5) Addressing in a more visible way at risk teen behaviors with DCAARB
- 6) Established Department of the Month Program at the Darien Town Hall to recognize efforts of Town Hall Employees that go above and beyond